



THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,

AMERICAN SECTION.

SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

HELD AT

Palmer House, Chicago, April 24th and 25th, 1892.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

FIRST DAY, MORNING SESSION, APRIL 24TH.

The Convention assembled in the Club Room of the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., at 10 A. M. on April 24th, 1892.

The General Secretary, William Q. Judge, called the meeting to order, and on motion Brother William Q. Judge was elected temporary Chairman of the meeting, the motion being put by Dr. Buck of Cincinnati. Brother Elliott B. Page was then elected on motion Assistant Secretary to the Convention. The General Secretary then read the list of Branches in the American Section, and the delegates or proxies responded as follows :—

ARJUNA T. S., St. Louis	-	-	Elliott B. Page, <i>delegate</i> .
ARYAN T. S., New York	-	-	William Q. Judge, <i>prest</i> .
CHICAGO T. S., Chicago	-	-	Geo. E. Wright, <i>prest</i> .
MALDEN T. S., Malden	-	-	Geo. D. Ayers, <i>delegate</i> .
LOS ANGELES T. S., Los Angeles	-	-	Sidney Thomas, <i>delegate</i> .
BOSTON T. S., Boston	-	-	Geo. D. Ayers, <i>prest</i> .
CINCINNATI T. S., Cincinnati	-	-	Dr. J. D. Buck, <i>president</i> .
RAMAYANA T. S., Chicago	-	-	Dr. W. P. Phelon, <i>prest</i> .
ISHWARA T. S., Minneapolis	-	-	{ Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre, <i>prest</i> .
			{ Mrs. E. K. La Pierre, <i>dele</i> .

KRISHNA T. S., Philadelphia	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
PRANAVA T. S., St. Louis	-	-	Wm. Throckmorton, <i>dele.</i>
VEDANTA T. S., Omaha	-	-	R. D. A. Wade, <i>delegate</i> .
NIRVANA T. S., Grand Island, Neb.	-	-	Chas. Rief, <i>delegate</i> .
POINT LOMA LODGE, San Diego, Calif.	-	-	Sidney Thomas, <i>delegate</i> .
DHARMA T. S., Cleveland	-	-	Wm. E. Gates, <i>president</i> .
ISIS LODGE, Decorah, Iowa	-	-	Mrs. M. I. Riggles, <i>delegate</i> .
BRAHMANA T. S., Milwaukee	-	-	Mrs. Julia Ford, <i>prest.</i>
BROOKLYN T. S., Brooklyn	-	-	H. T. Patterson, <i>delegate</i> .
BANDHU T. S., Santa Cruz, Calif.	-	-	Dr. A. Keightley, <i>delegate</i> .
BLAVATSKY T. S., Washington	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
EXCELSIOR T. S., San José, Calif.	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
AURORA Lodge, Oakland, Calif.	-	-	Dr. J. D. Buck, <i>proxy</i> .
NARADA T. S., Tacoma, Wash.	-	-	Dr. J. D. Buck, <i>proxy</i> .
MUSKEGON T. S., Muskegon, Mich.	-	-	L. B. Howard, <i>president</i> .
UPASANA T. S., San Diego, Calif.	-	-	Sidney Thomas, <i>president</i> .
TRIANGLE T. S., Alameda, Calif.	-	-	Dr. J. D. Buck, <i>proxy</i> .
DANA T. S., Sioux City, Iowa	-	-	A. M. Smith, <i>proxy</i> .
AMRITA T. S., Lincoln, Neb.	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
HERMES COUNCIL T. S., Baltimore	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
VYASA T. S., New Orleans	-	-	Edward W. Parker, <i>dele.</i>
SEATTLE T. S. No. 1, Seattle, Wash.	-	-	Sidney Thomas, <i>proxy</i> .
1ST T. S. OF JAMESTOWN, Jamestown, N. Y.	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
VISHNU T. S., Pittsburg	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
WILLAMETTE T. S., Portland, Oregon	-	-	Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre, <i>proxy</i> .
INDRA T. S., Clinton, Iowa	-	-	J. W. Harding, <i>delegate</i> .
IRON CITY T. S., Pittsburg	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
ANNIE BESANT T. S., Ft. Wayne, Ind.	-	-	Judge E. O'Rourke, <i>prest.</i>
DHYANA T. S., Los Angeles, Calif.	-	-	Sidney Thomas, <i>delegate</i> .
"H. P. B." T. S., New York	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
ST. PAUL T. S., St. Paul, Minn.	-	-	Paul Henning, <i>delegate</i> .
SALT LAKE T. S., Salt Lake, U. T.	-	-	Wm. Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
SAN FRANCISCO T. S., San Francisco	-	-	Sidney Thomas, <i>by order</i> .
OLYMPIA T. S., Olympia, Wash.	-	-	" " "

The roll of Councillors was then called, and the following responses were made :

GEN. A. DOUBLEDAY	-	-	William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
E. O'ROURKE	-	-	<i>present.</i>
SIDNEY THOMAS	-	-	<i>present.</i>
ALEXANDER FULLERTON	-	-	William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
FRANK I. BLODGETT	-	-	" " "

A. O. ROBINSON	-	-	-	-	William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
GEORGE E. WRIGHT	-	-	-	-	<i>present</i> .
DR. J. D. BUCK	-	-	-	-	"
ELLIOTT B. PAGE	-	-	-	-	"
WILLIAM THROCKMORTON	-	-	-	-	"
DR. Q. J. WINSOR	-	-	-	-	William E. Gates, <i>proxy</i> .
MRS. M. L. BRAINARD	-	-	-	-	<i>present</i> .
MISS K. HILLARD	-	-	-	-	William Q. Judge, <i>proxy</i> .
MRS. MERCIE M. THIRDS	-	-	-	-	<i>present</i> .

The temporary Chairman then called for nomination of permanent Chairman of the Convention, and Sidney Thomas of San Diego moving the same, Judge R. Wes McBride was elected permanent Chairman and took the chair, declaring the Convention in order and ready for business, thanking the meeting for his election and stating that business would call him away on the second day of the meeting.

The Chairman then read a proposed order of business, which was adopted and is as follows :—

- (1) Settlement of hours of business.
- (2) Reception of Foreign delegates.
- (3) Resolutions regarding H. P. Blavatsky.
- (4) Reading minutes or dispensing therewith.
- (5) General Secretary's Report.
- (6) Resignation of Col. Olcott.
- (7) Resolutions regarding Col. Olcott.
- (8) Resolutions regarding Col. Olcott's services to the Society.
- (9) The succession to the Presidency.
- (10) Resolutions on the Memorial Fund for H. P. B. and the disposition of her ashes.
- (11) Addresses and letters from foreign delegates and Sections, including Mr. Mead's address from the European Section.
- (12) Appointment of (a) Auditing Committee ; (b) Committee on Resolutions ; (c) Committee on Nominations.
- (13) General order of business for the good of the Section.
- (14) Elections for the ensuing year.

On motion it was then decided to adjourn at 1 o'clock to meet again at three ; to adjourn at 6 P. M. and to meet again at 8 P. M.

The General Secretary then read a telegram of congratulation from Mrs. Annie Besant sent from London and just then received in the Convention. On motion Brother George R. S. Mead was received as

delegate from the European Section and made a member of the Convention. After his election Mr. Mead addressed the Convention for a few moments, expressing his appreciation of the honor conferred. Dr. Archibald Keightley, present at the Convention, was also unanimously elected a member thereof.

Dr. Buchman of Fort Wayne then offered the following resolution regarding H. P. Blavatsky :—

Resolved, That this Convention of the American Section of the Theosophical Society, before proceeding with the business of the day, here records its deep gratitude to our departed leader, Helena P. Blavatsky, for the service she has rendered to the cause of Human Brotherhood and to every one of us by her devotion and unflinching work during the whole period of the Society's existence from its organization to the day when she abandoned her mortal frame ; her devotion, loyalty, and persistent work in the face of calumny and surrounded by every obstacle have made every Theosophist her debtor ; this debt can only be discharged by continued loyalty on our part to the cause she held so dear, and therefore, for the spreading of the work and the strengthening of the foundations of the Theosophical Society, we pledge this Section by head and hand and heart ;

which was put to the meeting by the Chairman and passed unanimously by a rising vote.

The General Secretary then offered to read the minutes of the last meeting of 1891, but as the same had been printed and circulated among all the members it was on motion ordered that the reading of the same be dispensed with and be adopted as printed and circulated.

The General Secretary then read his Annual Report as follows :

REPORT OF GENERAL SECRETARY.

Since we last met in Convention a year has rolled away and important events have occurred. In April, 1891, our meeting was in Boston, we had as English representative and delegate from Mme. H. P. Blavatsky, our sister Annie Besant, then on her first visit to America, and while we held our session the great founder of the Society was still alive, although only a few days removed from the great change. In 1888 we met in this city for the first time as an actual representative Convention, and then received from H. P. Blavatsky a message in her hand-writing, in which she said that that meeting was the beginning of a new cycle for us. But since then she has passed away from earth, and we can no longer have from her at our annual meeting the words of encouragement and suggestion she always sent us. But although

the great spirit has gone, although we have lost a brave and tireless general, her works, her example, and her influence remain. Let me, then, read to you a few sentences from her first message to us, sent in the year 1888.

"Theosophy has lately taken a new start in America, which marks the commencement of a new cycle in the affairs of the Society in the West. And the policy you are now following is admirably adapted to give scope for the widest expansion of the movement, and to establish on a firm basis an organization which, while promoting feelings of fraternal sympathy, social unity, and solidarity, will leave ample room for individual freedom of exertion in the common cause—that of helping mankind.

"The multiplication of local centres should be a foremost consideration in your minds, and each man should strive to be a centre of work in himself. When his inner development has reached a certain point he will naturally draw those with whom he is in contact under the same influence; a nucleus will be formed, around which other people will gather, forming a centre from which information and spiritual influence radiate, and toward which higher influences are directed.

"But let no man set up a popery in Theosophy, as this would be suicidal and has ever ended most fatally.

"Since the Society was founded a distinct change has come over the spirit of the age. Those who gave us commission to found the Society foresaw this wave of transcendental influence now rapidly growing.

* * * The Theosophical Society led the van of this movement; but * * * theosophy pure and simple has still a severe battle to fight for recognition. * * * The philosophy of the rational explanation of things is of the most vital importance, inasmuch as it alone can furnish the beacon light needed to guide humanity on its true path. * * * On the day when theosophy will have accomplished its most holy and important mission—to unite firmly a body of all nations in brotherly love bent on pure altruistic work and not for selfish purposes—only then will it become higher than any nominal brotherhood of man.

"Orthodoxy in Theosophy is a thing neither possible nor desirable. It is diversity of opinion, within certain limits, that keeps the Theosophical Society a living and healthy body. * * * Were it not for the existence of a large amount of uncertainty in the minds of theosophists, such healthy divergencies would be impossible and the Society would degenerate into a sect in which a narrow and stereotyped creed would take the place of the living and breathing spirit of Truth and an ever-growing knowledge. * * * According as people are prepared to receive it, so will new teaching be given. * * * It depends on the

assimilation of what has been already given how much more will be revealed and how soon.

"The Society was not founded as a nursery for manufacturing Adepts. It was intended to stem the current of materialism, and also that of spiritualistic phenomenalism and the worship of the Dead. It had to guide the spiritual awakening that has now begun, and not to pander to psychic cravings which are but another form of materialism.

"I should like to visit America, and shall perhaps do so one day, should my health permit. But * * a large part of my heart and much of my hope for Theosophy lie with you in the United States, where the Theosophical Society was founded and of which country I myself am proud of being a citizen."

But duty kept her in London until she had finished the *Secret Doctrine*, the book that led Annie Besant into the Society from the negations of materialism, and then all-grasping death claimed the body of H. P. Blavatsky. From my intimate acquaintance with H. P. B. for these many years and from her constant letters, I know that she remained in England and this world much longer than her desires would keep her, in order that a telling blow could be struck at the great monster of disbelief. And that blow was delivered in the country which still greatly influences the thought of America, by the conversion of a life-long champion of those who believe in no religion to theosophy, the most spiritual of all sciences and religions. I do not say this as praise for Annie Besant, nor merely as rejoicing that we acquired another noble heart and eloquent advocate, but to point out that many thousands of minds must have been shaken from their confident assertions of disbelief when they saw that their old-time champion went over to theosophy; and at the same time members of the dogmatic sects perceived by the same event that, even if one gives up the negations of materialism, it does not follow that he must fall back again into the arms of any church or sect. Hence, then, by the acquisition without effort, but naturally, of one who was so long and so publicly known to all English-speaking peoples as the champion of negation in belief and altruism in endeavor, a telling, wide-vibrating blow was given to disbelief. And then H. P. B.—friend and fellow student—left us, on what other high mission bent we know not.

The news of our loss in May, so soon after our successful Convention, created comment throughout the world; many members of the Society would have easily joined in a sudden retreat from the field; and newspapers, together with croaking enemies of the Society, prophesied its fall, supposing that our movement was built on a personal worship of one woman. But scarce a moment elapsed ere a new resolve sprang up in the hearts of all, and actual correspondence has proved that

through the world our members determined to be true to the cause and the objects outlined in that letter of 1888 which I quoted to you. The structure of sixteen years' growth did not tremble in the least.

Considering that the circumstances demanded it, and after advising with near friends, I sailed on May 13th, 1891, for London to consult our fellows there to the end that a general unity of policy and action might be decided on. The event proved the propriety of the journey. As Vice-President of the entire Society, I had the great pleasure of presiding over the preliminary meetings in London to draft the necessary Constitution; and afterwards took part in July in their Convention, the president of which was Col. Olcott and where was adopted a form of constitution the same as that commended by our beloved H. P. B. in the extracts I have read you from her letters. That was the first theosophical convention of the European Branches, and must be regarded as the beginning of a new cycle for that Section as ours of 1888 was for us. It was most interesting and important in every respect. Resolutions on the death of the founder were passed—and the same I recommend to be done here. A memorial fund was started in her honor, and to that our members have the privilege of contributing. The action taken in respect to the ashes of H. P. B.'s body was of importance.

As her old friend and as President, Col. Olcott preferred a claim to the ashes on behalf of himself and India, but at the same time stated that as England also desired them he would relinquish the right, and suggested a division, adding that in that case the American Section, where the Society was started, had equal rights with England. In consequence the ashes of our leader were divided into three parts, one of which was put under my control with papers of identification signed by the witnesses, and imposed with the proviso that, in case the Section at any time breaks up, our portion of the ashes should go back to India. The same was done, and also agreed to, respecting the portion given to England.

While I do not believe in relics or in their worship, I see no impropriety in our having a portion of these ashes, just as the personal effects of any great person are usually preserved; and it was also fittingly suggested that the New Headquarters in New York should preserve the American share of them. This the New York Branch hopes to be able to do when it has completed the alterations of the building it has acquired in that city.

To this a brief reference is proper. The project of obtaining a permanent Headquarters in New York was broached some two years ago, as the coöperation of the General Secretary and the *Path* magazine with the

Aryan Society made such a step possible. The fund for the purpose slowly grew, and this year, as the increase of the work of the General Secretary's office as well as the other work carried on in the same offices demanded that a removal be made, the occasion was seized for obtaining the place required. The Aryan T. S. purchased a fine house at 144 Madison Av.—in which street the Theosophical Society was organized in 1875—to be occupied by that Branch, by the General Secretary, and by the *Path* business and Aryan Press. This gives the Branch a fine Hall, and, while not unduly increasing the General Secretary's rent, gives that office ample room for business, together with a reception room to be open day and evening, so as to at last make a Headquarters of the Society of dignity and influence, and where visitors and members may always find what they need, with the opportunity of making acquaintance with each other. As the removal to larger rooms on May 1st was imperative, further stay in our cramped quarters being impossible, and as an increased rent would in any case have been incurred—though with less convenience and space than we shall enjoy in the Aryan Building, I doubt not that you will see the justice of the following Resolution I propose :—

Resolved, that the expenditure by the Gen. Sec'y for furniture be approved, and that the Executive Committee be authorized to allow for rent such sum, not exceeding \$300, as may be needed in addition to the \$400 now appropriated.

It is my duty next to report to you officially the resignation of Col. H. S. Olcott of the office of President of the Society which he has so long held. This was not unexpected, as a year or more ago he offered it on account of ill health and advanced years, deeming that the Society had at last gotten on a sure basis for future action and life. He was then prevailed on by earnest solicitation conveyed by me, and in consequence of generous aid toward vacation expenses given by a New York F. T. S., to withdraw his resignation. But in July in London he suffered again from rheumatism, and at the last December Convention at Adyar he said that he could no longer work and travel as of yore. Subsequently he informed me of his final determination to resign his office and of his continued loyalty and sympathy for the Society. He leaves official duty only. In the quiet of that release he will write books for the benefit of the movement, and will also continue the work in the Buddhist world for which he is specially adapted and where already much has been accomplished by him.

The correspondence between Col. Olcott and myself on this subject is annexed to this report. It consists of his letter of resignation, my reply thereto, and his general circular letter.

The Vice President acts until a successor to the President is elected. Accordingly, following precedent in such cases, I sent, as General Secretary, to each Branch of this Section last February a copy of the said letters, requesting the Branch vote on the question of succession, and have received from 53 Branches their votes thereon, all of which are herewith separately submitted.

It is now the duty of this Convention to take action on the subject of the succession to the Presidency, so that the Vice President of the Theosophical Society may be apprised of the wishes of this Section. When the votes of the European and Indian Sections are known, further steps may be taken either in declaring the result or requesting a new ballot.

In respect to any resolutions you may see fit to pass regarding Col. Olcott's life and work, it is permissible for me to make one suggestion. This is, that very properly this Convention might express its opinion to be, among other things, that Col. Olcott ought to be offered at the proper time by his successor a life-residency at the Headquarters property in India, in which place this Section has an interest in common with the other Sections of the Society. For though he has resigned his office he is still a member. His sympathies are with us, he intends to work for the Society not only on the Buddhist lines but also in literature for our help. Although his long journeys, which caused his mission to be known in all lands, have come to an end, he has only taken a step which will launch him into other work for the organization.

The better to recruit his health and to secure freedom from interruption Col. Olcott has built for his future residence a little house of but 3 rooms at Ootamacund in the hill region, and expects to retire thither early in May. As his declining years should assuredly be free from anxiety as to support, and as every Theosophist must feel grateful to the man who for the Society has sacrificed all that men usually value, and has for 16 years toiled and travelled and economized in everything but labor for its welfare, I think you will agree with me that this Section should unite in a pecuniary offering, not as any equivalent for what he has done, but simply as some safeguard against a penury which, had he worked for himself and not for the Society, would be impossible. Therefore I propose the following Resolution:—

Resolved, that this Convention earnestly invites each member of the American Section to forward to the General Secretary his best possible contribution towards the relief from future want of our honored ex-President and Founder, Col. Henry S. Olcott, the General Secretary to forward Col. Olcott the aggregate thus raised as a testimonial, however inadequate, of the gratitude of this Section for his long and devoted services.

But as he will continue residence in India, our Headquarters would seem to be a fitting place for his home if he cares to accept.

The usual Indian Convention was held last December and was very successful. Full reports of it have been printed by the proper officers.

Since our convention in 1891 eleven Branches have been chartered, as follows :

Gray's Harbor T. S.	Hoquiam, Wash'n	Chartered May 4, 1891.
"H. P. B." T. S.	New York City.	" June 26, 1891.
Springfield T. S.	Springfield, Mass.	" July 10, 1891.
St. Paul T. S.	St. Paul, Minn.	" July 21, 1891.
Pleiades Lodge T. S.	Soquel, Calif.	" Aug. 24, 1891.
Salt Lake T. S.	Salt Lake City, Utah Terr.	" Aug. 24, 1891.
San Francisco T. S.	San Francisco, Calif.	" Sep. 22, 1891.
Providence T. S.	Providence, R. I.	" Oct. 19, 1891.
Olympia T. S.	Olympia, Wash'n	" Oct. 26, 1891.
Atma T. S.	New Haven, Conn.	" Mar. 2, 1892.
Boise T. S.	Boise City, Idaho Terr.	" Mar. 15, 1892.

Two Branches have relinquished their Charters and dissolved,—the Oriental Club of Gilroy, Calif, and the Die Deutsche Theosophische Gessellschaft of Philadelphia, Pa. Of the 60 Branches now upon the American Roll only one is really extinct, and its Charter will probably be cancelled this year.

The number of new members admitted during the twelve months has been 392. There have been 17 deaths and 45 resignations.

The various departments of work in the General Secretary's office have been continued with the vigor of heretofore. The *Forum* has been issued every month, and 11 Branch Papers have been sent to Branches. The Oriental Department I will speak of later on. The Aryan Press, which lost one of its faithful workers by translation to London, received successor in a devoted theosophist who relinquished a comfortable livelihood that he might, upon a mere pittance, give his life to the Cause. The Circulating Library, which held 165 books in April last, now holds 223, and the number of its users has risen from 110 to 176.

The Tract Mailing Scheme, now as heretofore carried on by private donations, has had, I regret to say, no general support during the year. The contributions have been \$902.50, but only from a few still maintaining interest, and, instead of the 131,000 tracts printed last year, I can report but 70,000. The whole amount of money given from the beginning is \$2809.45. To the tracts thus reported by me should be

added the 27,000 printed by the Pacific Coast Committee, and an earnest Theosophist in Cleveland has herself issued no fewer than 12,000, so that the total number is 109,000. In consequence of failing funds I have been obliged to of late limit the use of Directories entirely to such time as would have been otherwise unoccupied by the office staff, but this curtailment has been more than offset by a most valuable scheme elaborated by one of our best workers and friends, familiar with the mechanism of newspapers. He has, under the name "Press Scheme", undertaken the supply of articles, longer or shorter, to a large number of journals through the country, and in systematic way has ensured variety, interest, and security against duplication. Over the country has thus been made to pour a stream of healthful truth, and the results from its permeation into hamlets and households no one can compute. To this our friend "F. T. S." has added a "Plate Scheme", an enlargement of the system for distributing specific articles, and has thus reached an additional number of newspapers. Of such immense importance do I deem this work that I have decided to unite all three sections of our missionary effort under one general head, calling it THE PROPAGANDA and using therein the funds given me therefor. The distribution of tracts will be curtailed, and most of our strength put into the circulation of articles in newspapers as described. I think, too, that the latter work will excite more general interest in the Society and call out larger aid; and certainly I do ask every member to look upon himself as owing missionary work to the Society, a work he may not be able wholly to fulfil in person, but which he may vicariously effectuate by furnishing our Propaganda with the means it needs.

Last year report was made of the starting of the Oriental Department, and your consent and ratification were obtained. At that time you were informed that Bro. Keightley, in India, had secured temporarily the services of a native Tamil scholar, and the greater part of the needed funds were furnished by New York members of the Society, although the subject was brought before you so as to have the support of the entire Section. Since then 11 numbers of the Oriental Department papers have been issued from the office of the General Secretary, each member of the section being entitled to one. If any members of Branches have not received their numbers the mistake lies with their Secretary, as that official should send them to the members of his branch because the Section ought not to bear the burden of the expense to branch members for postage. The Tamil scholar spoken of was only temporarily engaged, and a permanent engagement has been effected of Prof. Manilal N. Drivedi, who lives in the Bombay Presidency in India, and who is therefore the resident Pundit of the American Section.

Although we thus started the Department apparently only for this country, the reason was that then no settled program of action could be made so as to have the funds and the work both enure for this Section and the Adyar Oriental Library which is growing in importance. It is to be hoped that in time all this may be accomplished, and it is my hope that members of this Section will abandon all sectional feelings and not regard this department as of no use to them because it deals with oriental literature or because they do not like views of theosophy or of nature not exactly in accord with western ideas. But I have had from many quarters in the Society expressions of appreciation of the work of the department, in which the writers say that they have obtained from the papers information they could get no where else, even though some of the matter has been a little drier than we are wont to have in the light and so-called juicy literature of our Occidental civilization. The great societies of Europe pay large sums of money for just such work as this, only that they have the translations made by Germans or Englishmen, while we have them from native Sanscrit scholars. In the course of time the work of this department will be found to be of the greatest use. Meanwhile those theosophists who do not wish to read the opinions of the ancient Hindus, from whom, indeed, the theosophical philosophy has come, can easily refrain from reading the publications of the Department.

The conventional year opened with a surplus in the treasury of \$1,433.07. A munificent donation of 100 pounds from a Swiss theosophist is one reason why I am able to report a present surplus of \$987.23. No appeal for help during the year has been necessary.

But it is to be observed that this amount is less by \$145.84 than the surplus last reported, and, were it not for the \$484 given by our foreign brother, there would have been a surplus of but \$503.23. As our expenses this year will be much larger from increased rent, needed furniture, etc., it is very possible that a deficit may occur, and I therefore again invite the kind remembrance by Branches and Brethren of the Headquarters needs, which, as so often explained, cannot be met by dues, and are only covered by the voluntary contributions that a sense of our wants and work has prompted.

In the last report there was expounded to you the great need of a theosophical lecturer. I had at that time reason to suppose that we should not be without a fitting appointee by autumn, but the arrangement in view turned out impracticable. What has really been accomplished thus far is a Lecture Bureau. What such a Bureau has done on the Pacific Coast you know. In imitation thereof several of our New York members prepared lectures suitable for general audiences, and

from time to time these have been given at various points. Sometimes the local Branch has covered the expense of travel, sometimes the lecturer has contributed it himself. Exclusive of my Western tour, the number of lectures thus delivered in Harlem, Boston, Providence, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, Jamestown, and Cincinnati is 29. To the Lectureship Fund the Branches have contributed \$269.25, and individuals \$595.99. We have \$492.63 on hand as a nucleus for future needs and expansion.

Such great need was patent for a direct contact of the General Secretary with Branches and members on the Pacific Coast that I arranged last autumn a route of great length and started upon it. It was unfortunately shortened at the last by a collapse of my own strength, but enough had been done to show what impetus is given to Theosophy by such visitation of Branches and public lectures. The great energy of our California Brethren has been in no respect overrated, and an actual inspection of their work must fill any one with enthusiasm and hope. On that tour I visited nearly all the Branches on the Pacific Coast from Seattle in the north to San Diego in the south. While there I suggested that, instead of bending our energies yet toward having a general permanent lecturer for the whole Section, it would be well for the Pacific Coast Branches to try and have a lecturer for the coast, as it is geographically situated so as to require such an arrangement, and subscribed for the beginning of a fund in the name of one of our New York members a sum of money then deposited with the committee, and they on their part began the work of finding out how much their various members and branches would give. The result of this was that on the 24th of last February the committee announced the engagement of Brother Allen Griffiths as such lecturer, and on the 15th of March he began work. No doubt further report on that head will be given you by him or by some one from there. Of his loyalty there can be no doubt, and as time goes on it will be plain, I hope, that his engagement was a wise step. Every branch on that coast ought to strain every nerve to keep such work up, as it must benefit the entire coast, even though for a time the particular efforts are directed to particular localities, leaving others out for a time. For general work always has a beneficial reaction on every particular portion of the field.

It is not out of place to once more remind you that a vast amount of work is carried on in the General Secretary's Office, and reported on herein, for which no draft is ever made on the funds of the Section. I have the assistance of such men as Brother Fullerton in the office and Brother Pryse in the Aryan Press, which we could never have on the ordinary business basis where every man receives compensation for time

and energy. They work for the good of the Society and not as employees; they give all of their time and much of their means; others give assistance also; the Propaganda and other work is carried on with private money; for the sums received from dues and fees would never enable me to have as much done as is accomplished. I want you to know this, not as a criticism on you, but that you may know the facts as you ought and that you can see how theosophy has force enough to make men here and there give up the pleasures and emoluments of life and business in order to help on the philosophical and ethical progress of the race.

In our Sectional history it sometimes happens that membership in a Branch sinks below the Constitutional requirement of five and the Branch as such becomes virtually extinct. Its presence on our roll is then misleading, and may be even mischievous. For if upon any question a general vote of Branches was necessary, such a Branch might affect seriously a result, though not representing a real nucleus of work or, indeed, anything more than the fancy of two or three individuals. In fact, if membership has sunk below even the small Charter-requisite, it is proof that no activity exists, no propaganda used, no true Theosophy moving. To allow dead Theosophists to paralyze the work of the living would be not merely injustice, it would be folly. It is my very decided conviction that provision should be made to correct such anomaly, and I recommend to the Convention the passage of the following Resolution:

Resolved, that when in any Branch the membership shall sink below the number of five, the General Secretary, if satisfied that the Branch is virtually extinct, be empowered, with approval from the Executive Committee, to cancel the Charter and place the remaining members on the list of members-at-large. No such Branch before cancellation shall have a vote at any Convention of this Section.

The case for the present use of such power is that of the Keshava T. S. of Boulder, Colo. It has now but three members, holds no meetings and does no work, never acknowledges any business communications from the General Secretary's office, and will never, I am satisfied from collateral information, be in a different state from now. The Charter should therefore be cancelled and the field opened to a future and more promising effort.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,
General Secretary American Section T. S.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Surplus from 1891.....		\$1,433.07
Branch Dues.....	\$1,385.50	
Dues and fees from members-at-large.....	647.50	
Charter-fees.....	60.00	
Donations from Branches.....	19.00	
Donations from Individuals.....	963.86	
Donations to India.....	54.00	
" " Col. Olcott's Vacation.....	1.00	
" " Sangamitta Girls' School.....	68.00	
" " H. P. B. Memorial Fund.....	26.25	
Draft from P. d'Abrew for Mrs. Higgins's passage.....	120.25	
Sale of Reports.....	7.44	
Sale of Forums and Sundries.....	63.99	3,416.79
		<u>\$4,849.86</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Remitted to India :—

Donations.....	\$ 59.00	
Diploma fees.....	196.50	
Charter fees.....	60.00	
	<u>\$315.50</u>	
Less Printing Branch Charters....	24.50	\$291.00
Remitted for Col. Olcott's Vacation.....	1.00	
" " Sangamitta Girls' School.....	68.00	
" " Salary of Indian Pandit.....	360.00	
Refunded loan for Mrs. Higgins's passage..	120.25	
Placed in Vice-President's hands the differ- ence on 25% appropriation.....	268.75	
Travel to Convention of 1891.....	20.50	
Rent.....	389.99	
Salaries.....	723.00	
Stationery and Stamps.....	358.54	
Printing Convention Report 1891.....	155.70	
Forums.....	214.60	
Printing.....	531.65	
Incidentals.....	333.40	\$3,836.38
Surplus on hand.....		<u>\$1,013.48</u>
Due to H. P. B. Memorial Fund.....		26.25
ACTUAL SURPLUS.....		<u><u>\$987.23</u></u>

LECTURESHIP FUND.

RECEIPTS.

Donations from Branches.....	\$269.25	
“ “ Individuals.....	595.99	\$865.24

DISBURSEMENTS.

Lecture tours by General Secretary.....	\$343.61	
Lectures by others	29.00	372.61
Surplus on hand.....		<u>\$492.63</u>
Surplus in General Secretary's account.....	\$987.23	
“ “ Lectureship Fund.....	492.63	

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,
Treasurer.

After the reading of the Report the same was referred to a Committee of three : Dr. La Pierre, Dr. Buck, and Dr. Buchman.

The General Secretary then read the resignation of Col. Olcott from the Presidency, together with his own reply thereto as Vice-President. They are as follows:

THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Theosophical Society, President's Office,

ADYAR, January 21, 1892.

TO THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

Dear Sir and Brother:

Theosophy having been placed by recent events upon a footing of power and stability, and my continuance in office being no longer essential to the safety of the Society, I have obtained permission to carry out the wish—expressed by me in the Convention of 1886, and reiterated in that of 1890—and retire from the Presidency. My health is now too uncertain for me to count upon having the ability to travel and work as I have done until now ; in fact I am now at this moment under medical treatment and have had to cancel engagements for a tour to Arakan, Bengal, and elsewhere. I therefore resume my liberty of action to devote myself to certain literary work for the benefit of the movement, long since planned and which none can do save myself. In

the ordinary course of nature the young replace the old, and I consider it more loyal to the Society to take myself into retirement, with all my faults and experience, than to selfishly linger on in office and perhaps obstruct better plans and men than myself. The Society is the life of my life, and so long as I live shall have the benefit of my counsel when asked.

In parting with my dear colleagues, I beg them to regard me, not as a person worthy of honor, but only as a sinful man, erring often but always trying to work his way upward and to help his fellow-men.

The Society has now within it a robust life that can only be destroyed by an incapacity for management with which nobody would venture to charge its leaders. Into their faithful hands I now entrust it, and shall be ready to withdraw by the 1st May, or sooner if the Council shall arrange to take over the Society's property and manage the duties of the President.

Fraternally yours,
H. S. OLCOTT.

Office Vice-President, Theosophical Society,
132 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK, February 22, 1892.

TO COL. H. S. OLCOTT,

President Theosophical Society, Adyar, Madras, India.

Dear Sir and Brother:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt, on the evening of the 19th of February, 1892, of your resignation of the office of President of the Theosophical Society, to take effect on the first of May, 1892, or sooner if the Council shall arrange to take the property of the Society and manage the duties of the President, as you find that the precarious state of your health and your advancing years will not permit you to travel and work as in the past.

Having received this from you it is my duty, as Vice-President of the Society, to notify the various sections of the Society of the fact of your resignation and of its cause. This I will do at once. Most undoubtedly they will feel with me the deepest regret that your arduous labors for the Society during its whole history from the very first have at last had such effect, and, coupled with the natural advance of age, have compelled you to carry out the wish for retirement which you expressed in 1886 and repeated in 1890.

When your friends and colleagues urgently asked you at the latter date to reconsider it, we well knew of the inroads upon your health

made by your work, and yet hoped that a long vacation—shortened, in fact, by Madame Blavatsky's death—might restore it. This hope has failed, yet the Sections of the Society will, however, rejoice when they read that you, in tendering your resignation of your official position, and in declaring continued loyalty to the movement—which, indeed, none could doubt, assure us that the Society shall have as long as you live the benefit of your counsel when asked. Of this we shall as a body most surely avail ourselves, for otherwise we should be shown incapable of valuing history, as well as ungrateful to one who so long has carried the banner of Theosophy in the thickest of the fight.

With assurances of universal sympathy from the American Section in especial, and from all other parts of the Society, I am, my dear colleague,

Your friend and brother,

WILLIAM Q. JUDGE,
Vice-President Theosophical Society.

The General Secretary then read a telegram which he had received from Col. Olcott a few days before the meeting, which is as follows:

"I cannot retire May 1st, as full arrangements at Adyar and Australia are not completed."

Votes of the Branches in writing upon the question of succession to the Presidency were then read and are as follows:

For William Q. Judge as successor:

Arjuna, Aryan, Chicago, Golden Gate, Los Angeles, Boston, Cincinnati, Ramayana, Ishwara, Krishna, Pranava, Vedanta, Nirvana, Point Loma, Varuna, Dharma, Isis, Brooklyn, Bandhu, Blavatsky, Excelsior, Gautama, Kansas City, Aurora, Narada, Muskegon, Upasana, Triangle, Eureka, Dana, Amrita, Hermes, Vyasa, Lotus, Seattle, Jamestown, Vishnu, Willamette, Memphis, Indra, Iron City, Annie Besant T. S., Toronto, Dhyana, Gray's Harbor, "H. P. B." T. S., St. Paul, Pleiades, Salt Lake, San Francisco, and Providence. There were no votes in opposition, and the Chairman called for any votes from the seven Branches not recorded and no votes in opposition were announced. The Chairman then declared the question of the succession to the Presidency, together with the votes of the Branches thereon as read, to be before the meeting. Dr. Buck offered and Dr. La Pierre seconded the following resolutions, which were referred to the Committee on Resolutions. They are as follows:

Whereas, Col. Henry S. Olcott, President-Founder of the Theosophical Society, has tendered his resignation of the office of President to take effect

May 1st *proximo*, and has requested that a successor be elected to the office of President of the Theosophical Society, and,

Whereas, the General Secretary and Vice-President has taken the votes of all the Branches of this Section on the question of who shall be successor to the said office of President of the Theosophical Society, the said votes being unanimously in favor of William Q. Judge, and they being now duly reported to and before this Convention ;

Resolved, That the American Section in Convention assembled hereby tenders to Col. H. S. Olcott the expression of its profound gratitude and sincere appreciation for his unselfish devotion and long and faithful services for the Society which he helped to found and which is so largely indebted to him for its beneficent work and the recognition it has won in every quarter of the globe.

Resolved, That in our estimation the position of Col. Olcott as "President-Founder" of the Society is, and must forever remain, unique. Another may succeed him in the office of President and assume the duties of the office, but can never be "President-Founder."

Resolved, That this Convention confirms and ratifies the votes of said Branches, and as such Convention declares its choice for President to succeed Col. H. S. Olcott to be said William Q. Judge. But it is further

Resolved, That the American Section in Convention hereby requests Col. Olcott to revoke his said resignation and remain President of the Society, this Section deeming that it is not yet time for him to retire from said office, and it being possible for him to remain in said official position although his health may demand that the amount of his work be reduced to a minimum so far as traveling and speaking are concerned ; and the General Secretary and Vice-President is hereby directed to at once notify Col. Olcott by telegraph and letter of this request, forwarding copies thereof, to the end that all further proceedings relative to said retirement be suspended until such time as the sense of the European and Indian Sections on this point be obtained : that in the mean time it is the opinion and desire of this Section that the said resignation be not yet accepted but laid over for further consideration ; and that, when the sense of the said European and Indian Sections hereupon shall have been obtained, the General Secretary and Executive Committee of this Section shall call a special meeting of the Council of the Section to consider the question upon the report to be made thereupon by the General Secretary and Vice-President, and

Resolved, That this Section now declares its vote to be that when said office of President shall become vacant the successor to said Col. Olcott shall be said William Q. Judge, who shall hold said office for life unless removed for cause, and that he have power to nominate his successor as now provided in the General Constitution in respect to Col. Olcott ; and that the General Constitution be amended so as to provide in accordance with the foregoing, and that when the office of Vice-President shall become vacant, the choice of this Section for said office of Vice-President is Brother Bertram Keightley.

Resolved, That this Section requests that Col. Olcott, when he shall have retired, if ever, be offered a life residence at Adyar Headquarters.

Resolved, That the European and Indian Sections of the Society be and they are hereby requested to coöperate with this Section in endeavoring to carry out the letter and the spirit of these resolutions, and that the General Secretary of this Section immediately forward to said Sections an official copy of the same.

Resolved, Therefore, that this Section hereby reëlects to the office of General Secretary of this Section its present Secretary, William Q. Judge.

Brother Sidney Thomas then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted :

Whereas, a Fund designated as the "H. P. B. Memorial Fund" was instituted at the Convention of the European Section held July, 1891, at London, as a tribute to the memory of H. P. Blavatsky, said fund to be used for the production and publication of such papers, books, and translations as will tend to promote that intimate union between Orient and Occident to which her life was devoted; the President and General Secretaries being made the managers of the said fund;

Resolved, That this Section concurs in the resolutions thereupon which were adopted at said European Convention, and requests all members of the American Section to contribute thereto as their means may permit, and to send such contributions to the General Secretary of this Section.

Brother William Throckmorton then offered the following resolution regarding the ashes of H. P. B., which was unanimously carried :

Whereas, The President of the T. S., Col. H. S. Olcott, made a division of the ashes of the body of H. P. Blavatsky in July, 1891, at London, England, in the presence of Annie Besant and William Q. Judge, giving one portion thereof to said Annie Besant and another portion to said William Q. Judge, in trust for the European and American Sections respectively, and retained in his own possession the remainder of said ashes for the Indian Headquarters; and the portion thereof in control of said William Q. Judge being held by him on condition that they should be deposited in a permanent Headquarters of the T. S. in America; and

Whereas, The Aryan T. S. of New York has secured in that city a permanent Headquarters for the use of the General Secretary and for the benefit of the whole Society in America;

Resolved, That this Convention approves the establishment of said Headquarters at New York and asks all theosophists throughout this Section to do all they can from time to time toward reducing the debt incurred in purchasing the same, as well as toward the furnishing and maintenance thereof, and also asks said William Q. Judge to deposit said ashes of H. P. Blavatsky in some suitable receptacle in the said building.

The General Secretary then read greetings from the following foreign lodges: the Dublin Lodge, Ireland; the Barcelona Lodge in Spain; the Amsterdam Lodge of Holland; the Indian Section of the

Society; a letter from Col. Olcott to the Convention ; all of which are annexed to this Report.

Brother George R. S. Mead read letters from the Blavatsky Lodge of London and the European Section, which are also annexed hereto.

The Chairman then appointed the following Committees :

Auditing Committee : Brothers William Throckmorton, E. B. Page, and E. W. Primm.

Committee on Resolutions : Dr. La Pierre, Brothers Sexton, Buchman, and Wade.

Nominating Committee : Dr. Buck, Brother S. Thomas, Brother George E. Wright, Mrs. M. M. Thirds, and Mrs. M. M. Phelon.

The General Secretary then offered amendments to the Constitution and Rules as previously notified to the Committee according to the Constitution, which were referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

The report of the Central League of Theosophical Workers was then read by the General Secretary and listened to with great attention, followed by applause. It was referred to the Committee on Resolutions. The hour of adjournment having been reached, the meeting adjourned to meet at 3 o'clock.

SECOND SESSION, APRIL 24TH.

The Convention reassembled at 3 P. M. at the same place, Brother McBride presiding. The hall was well filled and many visitors were present.

The proceedings opened by the reading of a paper by Dr. A. Keightley entitled "Schools of Metaphysical Healing," which was followed by some discussion, after which Brother La Pierre presented the report of the Committee on Resolutions as follows :

Your Committee on Resolutions to whom was referred the resolutions to amend the Constitution recommend the adoption of the amendments to the same proposed by the General Secretary.

Second. They recommend the adoption of the resolutions offered relative to the Oriental Department.

Third. They report that the resolutions offered by various Branches respecting Col. Olcott are covered by the resolutions offered by Dr. Buck at this Convention, and therefore recommend a tabling of those resolutions.

Fourth. They report resolutions offered by Brother Rambo, San Francisco, respecting the time to hold Convention next year, to the Convention for further consideration.

Fifth. They recommend that the resolution proposing an amend-

ment to the Constitution offered from San Francisco in the hand-writing of Dr. Copeland be referred to a Committee of one consisting of the General Secretary, and he be empowered to insert the same in the Constitution.

Sixth. They recommend that the report of the Central League of Theosophical Workers be adopted by Convention and placed on file.

Seventh. They recommend the adoption of the resolutions embodied in the report of the General Secretary.

Signed by Dr. La Pierre, Dr. Buchman, S. B. Sexton, and R. D. A. Wade.

On motion of Dr. Buck it was ordered that the report of the Committee on Resolutions be adopted and the Committee discharged, and that the resolutions regarding the change of meeting of Convention be made special order of business for Monday morning.

Dr. J. D. Buck then read a paper entitled "Spiritualism and Materialism vs. Occult Science." Brother William Q. Judge followed Dr. Buck, claiming that Theosophists were not opposed to Spiritualism but that they gave explanations of the phenomena of Spiritualism which necessarily contradicted some views of Spiritualists. A lady then took ground against Brother Judge, saying that he said that Spiritualists were not good or intelligent. Brother Judge denied this, and the audience of 400 declared with one voice that Brother Judge had conveyed no such impression to them. Brother Thomas of San Diego sided with Brother Judge, but also said that many Theosophists had been Spiritualists and that Spiritualism had paved the way for Theosophy. Some other discussion on the matter took place, and at 5.30 the meeting adjourned to meet again at 7 p. m.

EVENING SESSION, APRIL 24TH.

The evening session opened promptly with a good attendance and Brother McBride in the chair. Brother Buck then offered the following resolution :

Resolved, That the General Secretary be requested to issue the Oriental Department papers at longer intervals; and for the present is directed to dispense with the services of Prof. M. N. Dvivedi.

Resolved, That the General Secretary be requested to correspond with the General Secretaries of the other Sections of the T. S., and with them to devise measures to consolidate the efforts now being made in the Oriental Department; and that he may use the funds in the Treasury for the Oriental Department with consent of the Executive Committee in helping

the Adyar Oriental Library, or otherwise as may be proper, in forwarding the work intended to be covered by said Oriental Department,

which was discussed and carried after being put to the meeting.

Brother George R. S. Mead then read a paper entitled "Some Thoughts on Reincarnation." There was a good deal of discussion on this paper in which Dr. Sidney Thomas, Brother Mead, Brothers Hoisington, Judge, Wright, Buck, Gates and others participated.

Brother Buchman then addressed the meeting on the question "Is it Reasonable to Believe in Mahatmas?", after which Brother Charles Rief of Grand Island, Neb., gave the meeting some of his experiences in the East, showing that Arabs who did not know anything about the Society believed in the existence of such beings, after which Brother Judge made some remarks and an address, and in reply to the question by Brother Thomas in respect to whether any women had become adepts stated that such had been his information from Madame Blavatsky, adding that he himself believed Madame Blavatsky to have been an adept.

The Chairman announced that it would be impossible for him to be present on Monday, as he had to open Court in an adjoining State, and asked that some other person be appointed by the meeting to take the chair for Monday. On motion of Brother Judge Brother Sidney Thomas of San Diego was elected to fill the chair on Monday morning. The meeting adjourned at 10 P. M.

SECOND DAY, MORNING SESSION, APRIL 25TH.

The Convention reassembled in the same place in the Palmer House at ten o'clock A. M., and according to the resolutions of yesterday Brother Sidney Thomas took the chair. Under the head of unfinished business the resolution offered by Brother Rambo relative to the change of time of holding of Convention in 1893 was taken up. On motion of Dr. Buck it was voted that the next Convention shall meet at the call of the Executive Committee, which motion the Chairman declared superseded the motion by Brother Rambo. The amendment to the Constitution offered in the hand-writing of Brother Copeland from the Pacific Coast was then on motion ordered to be made a part of the Constitution, and the Constitution offered by Brother Judge as thus amended was then adopted.

The General Secretary then offered the following which was seconded by Dr. Buck and several others :

Whereas, It is frequently asserted by those ignorant of the facts of the

case and of the literature of the Society, that the T. S. or its leaders seek to enforce certain beliefs or interpretations upon its members, or to establish a credal interpretation of any of its philosophical propositions; therefore

Resolved, That the T. S., as such, has no creed, no formulated beliefs that could or should be enforced on any one inside or outside its ranks; that no doctrine can be declared as orthodox, and that no Theosophical Popery can exist without annulling the very basis of ethics and the foundations of truth upon which the whole Theosophical teachings rest; and in support of this resolution appeal is made to the entire literature of the Society, and the oft-repeated statements published wide-spread by H. P. B., Col. Olcott, Mr. Judge, and every other prominent writer and speaker upon the subject since the foundation of the Theosophical Society.

The resolutions offered by the General Secretary in his Report were then taken up separately and on motion carried.

The Committee on Nominations then reported for Councillors, and the following were elected :

General A. Doubleday,	E. O'Rourke,
Sidney Thomas,	W. S. Wing,
Dr. J. W. B. La Pierre,	J. C. Slaughter,
F. I. Blodgett,	Rev. W. E. Copeland,
Miss L. A. Off,	Mrs. V. S. Beane,
Edgar A. Edwards,	Alpheus M. Smith,
Mrs. M. L. Brainard,	Mrs. S. A. Harris,
Allen Griffiths,	Mrs. M. M. Thirds,
Dr. C. J. Lopez,	G. R. Boush,
Wm. Throckmorton,	Mrs. Florence Platt,
Miss K. Hillard,	Mrs. Mary I. Dye.

For the Executive Committee the following names were reported and on motion were declared elected for the ensuing year:

E. Aug. Neresheimer,	Alexander H. Spencer,
Alexander Fullerton,	Elliott B. Page,
E. B. Rambo,	Dr. A. P. Buchman,
William Q. Judge, <i>ex officio</i> .	

Mr. E. Aug. Neresheimer of New York was then elected Treasurer for the Section, and on motion it was declared that the General Secretary be Brother William Q. Judge. The Committee was then discharged with thanks.

Brother Buck then moved the following resolution which was unanimously carried :

Resolved, That all members of the Theosophical Society in America be invited to contribute \$1, or more if they feel so inclined, towards a fund which is to go as the annual contribution of the American Section by way of testimonial to Colonel H. S. Olcott as a slight recognition of his long and unselfish services for the Society and humanity.

The *Auditing Committee* then reported as follows:

"The Committee appointed by the Convention to audit the books of the Treasurer have examined the same and have found them correct. The Treasurer's bank book has been submitted to us, and we found a balance of \$1,506.11 to be properly deposited to the credit of the American Section."

Signed, William Throckmorton, Elliott B. Page, E. W. Primm, Auditing Committee.

On motion the report was adopted and the Committee discharged. It was then decided on motion that when the Convention adjourn it adjourn to meet at 3 o'clock P. M.

Discussion was then resumed on the subject of the meeting, "The Belief in Mahatmas and Reincarnation". Dr. Buck, Sidney Thomas, Dr. A. Keightley, Bro. Judge, and Bro. Hoisington participated in the discussion, which occupied considerable time and was very interesting. It resulted in much comment by the newspapers.

At this point the General Secretary read the following telegram from Col. Olcott.

"Tell the Convention to accept our most hearty congratulations and our wishes for every happiness."

The Chairman read the following telegram from the Pacific Coast dated at San Francisco the 25th of April.

"The Pacific Coast is with you in spirit, loyalty, and emotion"; signed by Edward B. Rambo.

Brother William E. Gates then read a paper on "Theosophy and Nineteenth Century Pessimism", which was listened to with very great attention. After the reading of the paper, the hour of adjournment being reached, the meeting adjourned to meet at 3 P. M.

SECOND DAY, AFTERNOON SESSION, APRIL 25TH.

The Convention reassembled at 3 o'clock, Brother Sidney Thomas being in the chair. The question of the probability of the existence of the Mahatmas and Adepts was then brought up, and Brother H. T. Patterson of New York spoke at length on the subject. The meeting

listened with great attention. After Brother Patterson's address Mrs. M. L. Brainard of Chicago read a paper entitled "The Way to the Path", which was commended very highly by several speakers after her conclusion. Brother Sidney Thomas then read a paper entitled "Mythology and Creation".

This was followed by an eloquent address on the same subject by Mr. Mead, who was followed by Brother Judge at some length, after which the meeting adjourned to convene again in the evening for the last time at 8 o'clock, the business of the evening being an address by Brother William Q. Judge on the subject of "Cyclic Impression and our Evolution."

EVENING SESSION, SECOND AND LAST DAY, APRIL 25TH.

The meeting opened with Brother Sidney Thomas in the chair and the house crowded. The General Secretary reported to Convention that he had cabled to Col. Olcott the substance of the resolutions in respect to his resignation, and that he had received the following reply:

"Adyar, Madras, April 25. Judge, New York. Am willing to do anything that is just and fair; I must stop here until I hear definitely from you (by Mail). Olcott."

The subject of the evening was then taken up, and the floor was given to Brother William Q. Judge, who lectured on the subject of "Cyclic Impression and our Evolution," which filled an hour and a quarter and was listened to with great attention. By the kindness of Brother E. W. Parker a stenographer was present who took down the address verbatim.

It having been proposed to print the papers read, one or two subscriptions were made, and if sufficient money is found for the purpose the papers of the Convention will be separately printed. After the address Brother Thomas made a few remarks, and the meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock *sine die*.

ABSTRACT OF REPORTS FROM BRANCHES.

THE 1ST T. S. JAMESTOWN, N. Y., has prospered mentally and spiritually. In 2 years the 9 members have become 16 ; in the past 11 months 35 regular meetings have been held, mostly on Wednesday evenings, but in addition there have been informal gatherings on Sundays, over 90 visitors having attended the former ; Dr. Buck and Mr. Judge have lectured ; public interest has increased ; and special kindness has been shown by the local press. Much energy has been expended in circulating literature. At each meeting either the *Bhagavad Gita* or the *Voice of the Silence* is read, and the *Key* is constantly studied. The Library has largely increased, and 4 periodicals are taken.

HERMES COUNCIL T. S., Baltimore, Md., has already accumulated a Library of 180 books, and has complete files of *Path*, *Theosophist*, *Lucifer*, *Siftings*, and *Forum*.

INDRA T. S., Clinton, Iowa, has continued to withstand the opposition of the godless and the godly, and has continued its weekly meeting without intermission. There is an average attendance of 7 or 8, including visitors. Only one new member has been added during the year, and three have been suspended for non-payment of dues, so that the present roll carries but 10. Next year will probably show better results.

TRIANGLE T. S., Alameda, Calif, still works along under many discouragements, but has maintained its weekly meetings and recovered one of its early members. Present number is 6. *Path* and *Lucifer* are taken and enjoyed. The Library contains 22 books, besides 3 bound volumes of *Path*. All the members appear to feel a deeper sense of altruism than when first joining the T. S., and believe that consistently leading The Life will have its ultimate influence on surroundings.

BOSTON T. S. began the year with 47 members in good standing. Since then 23 members have been admitted, 3 have resigned, 2 have joined other Branches, and one has become member-at-large, making present roll 64,—an increase of 17. A lecture was given or papers read at each of the 45 public meetings, the general attendance of both members and visitors being excellent. The Syllabus of Topics recommended by the Convention Committee on Branch Work has been adopted and followed. Each Thursday evening there is a regular public meeting ; on Saturday evening President Ayers conducts a class upon *The Secret*

Doctrine ; on Sunday evening there is an informal meeting for questions and conference under the charge of Dr. Ammi Brown ; and on Sunday afternoon a class for study of *The Key to Theosophy* is conducted by the Secretary. No other work undertaken by the Branch has been productive of so much good as the two classes. Not only do they lead to more intelligent and systematized knowledge of Theosophy, but they fit for better promulgation of its philosophy. The Library contains 218 volumes, besides many unbound books and pamphlets.

PLEIADES LODGE T. S., Soquel, Calif, was chartered only last August. To its 7 original members has been added one by demit, making present number 8. There are 10 books in the Library. Members are earnest and progress fair, but the town is too small for immediate growth to be expected.

MUSKEGON T. S. has admitted 2 members during the year, making its present roll 12, 3 of whom are non-residents. There is a Library of 20 books, loaned by members, and besides the regular meeting on Wednesday evening one is held on Sunday afternoon for study of the *Secret Doctrine* and the *Key*. In spite of much individual effort in missionary work, little or no interest has been manifested outside the regular visitors, about a dozen, but the growth of interest among the members is decided.

GOLDEN GATE LODGE, San Francisco, has gained 10 members during the year, but has lost 3 by demit and 2 by death, making present number 48. Meetings are now held weekly, and the Course of Subjects recommended by the Committee of Convention has proved the most effective step in study yet taken. Original papers are read each evening, and the attendance at public meetings has steadily increased, the extra lectures having enormously helped to extend interest. During the year the Lodge received visits from President Olcott, Vice-President Judge, and Dr. A. Keightley. The Library is free to all applicants, and has been greatly increased by donations. The "Children's Hour" and the adult "Class for Theosophic Study" have grown in importance and influence. Everything indicates a prosperous future.

DANA T. S., Sioux City, Iowa, has gained one member and lost two, its number now being 21. During the year 47 regular meetings have been held, and 9 extra meetings for inquirers, 56 in all, the average attendance being 12. The Library has 42 books and takes 3 Theosophical magazines. Missionary work has been in distribution of tracts, publication of articles in the city papers, subscribing to magazines for two

reading-rooms and furnishing books to one, arranging for a public lecture by the General Secretary, by donations to the general work, and by sowing seed wherever opportunity offered. Though the Branch has not grown in numbers, it has in knowledge and in Theosophic purpose.

AMRITA T. S., Lincoln, Neb., is still true to the cause and devoted to its interests. Membership has increased to 10, and minds outside are sensing the importance of Theosophy. Meetings are regularly kept up, the leading periodicals are taken, and a great deal of reading is done. Time and experience will doubtless disclose better methods.

ST. PAUL T. S., St. Paul, Minn., was chartered July 21st, 1891. It has 9 members, 8 of whom can be depended upon as sincerely interested. The library contains 31 books. Meetings are held on Wednesday evenings, those of the 1st and 3d Wednesday of the month being open to the public and with gratifying attendance thus far. Much public interest is felt in Theosophy, and the two principal dailies have asked for a report of the meetings and have in every case published it.

NARADA T. S., Tacoma, W. T., has gained 13 members, lost 3, and suspended 4, its present roll containing 25. Its income has been \$291.16.

KRISHNA T. S., Philadelphia, Pa., has received 10 new members during the year. In May last the room 1113 Arch st. was secured, and the Library has been kept open every evening, some member being in attendance. A number of strangers have read the books. Four lectures during the year have been delivered by Mrs. Gestevelde, Mr. W. J. Colville, Mr. A. Fullerton, and Mrs. Annie Besant, the last being of course *the* event in its history. Her lecture was at Musical Fund Hall and on a very stormy night, only 400 people venturing out, but the newspapers gave excellent reports of it. The most advanced student in the Branch, Prof. Chas. Wieland, was removed by death last December. For about 4 months regular meetings have been held on Monday evenings in the room, and the gradually increasing attendance furnishes hope that in time they may develop into considerable usefulness.

TORONTO T. S., Toronto, Canada, started one year ago with 5 members and has now 11, one having demitted and another resigned. One, now resident in Butte, Montana Terr., has been actively spreading Theosophy there. During the year 50 weekly meetings have been held, some poorly attended, but usually much interest has been displayed by outsiders, a number having been very regular in attendance. There

has been difficulty in providing original matter for a weekly programme, but the Branch Papers and judicious selections have secured edification. Portions of *The Key to Theosophy* have been regularly read. Only 7 books are in the Library, but literature has been purchased and distributed, and members have lent their own books. It is noticeable that the press, which formerly was hostile or indifferent, now admits items and paragraphs, and several times correspondence in different papers has been initiated by interrogative letters, &c. At least three sermons have been preached, one hostile, the others tolerably impartial. Very great assistance has been rendered through the *Review of Reviews*.

POINT LOMA LODGE, San Diego, Calif, holds an open meeting every Sunday afternoon at 3. On alternate Sundays a closed meeting follows from 4 to 5. The Lodge is numerically small, but is doing its best to maintain strength and spread interest.

GAUTAMA T. S., San Diego, Calif, has the same membership as when re-organized in 1890,—9, principally because it has been maintained rather as a class for study than as a public Lodge. The other Branches meet the latter need. Yet the President gives alternate Wednesday afternoons to public readings. The General Secretary's visit to San Diego gave an impulse to Theosophy, and more respectful hearing is now accorded to it.

CINCINNATI T. S. has now 30 members, 6 new members having joined, and 6 old ones demitted. The Library has increased from 25 to 42 bound books, with numerous pamphlets. Every Sunday afternoon from March to June a public meeting has been held, and since last October public lectures and essays on Tuesday evenings, discussion being general. Announcement of these meetings is made in the daily press, and discussion is invited.

EXCELSIOR T. S., San José, Calif, has given more hard work than in any previous year, though by only a few of its 12 members. Except in July and August a public meeting has been held nearly every Sunday, and many public lectures have been given. The *Key to Theosophy* and Mrs. Besant's *Seven Principles* have been studied, and the Gen. Sec'y's advice to retain one subject through several meetings was helpfully adopted. Though with little encouragement, work will be continued.

STOCKTON T. S. has added 1 member, demitted 2, and suspended 2, making present roll 34. Ten public lectures have been given:—W. Q.

Judge 2, Dr. Keightley 2, L. P. McCarty 1, Mrs. S. A. Harris 1, Mrs. M. Thirds 1, and Rev. W. E. Copeland 1. There have been 48 Branch meetings, with an average attendance of a little over 12. There are about 60 books in the Library, and the 3 magazines are taken. All things considered, the Branch has ground for encouragement and for continuing its work.

CHICAGO T. S. has 36 members. Regular meetings are held on Saturday evenings at Room 30, Athenæum Building, and are well attended. The Library contains about 90 books, and is much used by members and inquirers. The Reading-room, opened last October, has met with every success. Interest in Theosophy and its literature seems growing in Chicago, and the fact that there is a certain place where one may apply for information has been appreciated and utilized. The principal feature of the year was the 3 lectures given by Mr. Judge in Athenæum Hall, and from it good continues to come.

VYASA T. S., New Orleans, has a membership reduced to 9. Meetings have been regularly held and with full attendance, also with the minds of members more and more harmonious. There is a prospect of growth.

SEATTLE T. S. No. 1 has had 10 additions, but has lost 7; present membership 14. The Library contains 62 cloth-bound books and 65 pamphlets and books in paper, free to any responsible person. Meetings were first held in Bro. Blodgett's house, then in successive places as betterment required. The present room, though small, accommodates the Library and gives space for reading and for a study-class, and a well-situated hall has been secured for meetings. The average attendance on Sunday for the last three months has been 30. The leading journal, though editorially critical, gives good reports of lectures; two courses of lectures have been delivered alternately with members of Tacoma Branch; the Public Library has accepted a number of Theosophical books and given them a separate heading in its catalogue, also has ordered *Lucifer* for its Reading-room. Many persons are certainly interested in the subject.

DHARMA T. S., Cleveland, Ohio, has lost one member by death and another by insanity, but has now 14. The Branch has now a large room, in good locality, facing the Public Square, where its Library of some 100 books and pamphlets is kept, and which is always open, day and evening, in charge of the Secretary. Regular meetings are held on 1st and 3d Wednesdays, and informal meetings for discussion every

Sunday afternoon. About 15,000 reprints of Theosophical leaflets have been issued by the "Dharma Press," and some original publications. Work in Cleveland is very slow, and at one time the Branch seemed lifeless, but the establishment and maintenance of an open Headquarters have excited new interest and fresh hope.

ARYAN T. S., New York City, has admitted 14 new members and 6 by affiliation, but has lost 3 by death and 3 by resignation, 4 others being suspended. Its present membership is 84. The Library now contains 354 books. The same general system of securing papers and addresses through a Committee has been continued, and a vast amount of Theosophical thought thus elicited. It has been the great privilege of this Branch to possess for months 3 members of the Blavatsky Lodge in London, friends and pupils of H. P. B., one of them Dr. A. Keightley, former General Secretary of the British Section. The event of the year has been the purchase of a permanent Headquarters, a four-story brown stone house, 144 Madison Ave., to which the General Secretary's offices, the *Path*, and the Aryan Press were removed shortly before Convention, and wherein the Aryan meetings will be held from May on. This is probably the first house in the U. S. bought for exclusively Theosophical purposes. It provides room and opportunity for great expansion of work, and results will doubtless appear in report to Convention of '93.

AURORA T. S., Oakland, Calif, has dropped 2 members and demitted 1, but has added 6, making present membership 24. Regular meetings have been held twice a month for study and discussion, and 53 open Sunday meetings have had each an average attendance of 60 to 75. Two were addressed by Dr. Keightley and 2 by Mr. Judge, the latter's audiences being of over 300, many persons being unable to enter. Thirteen speakers have given original lectures, and abstracts of these have appeared in the local press. A year ago Miss Walsh established a Sunday School under the name "The Children's Hour." Though not large, much interest is shown, the teachers are faithful and enthusiastic, and the music is a feature. There is an adult class with fair attendance at the same hour. In October a League of Theosophical Workers was formed, nearly all the Branch members joining it, and it conducts "The Children's Hour." The Library has 132 bound books, besides pamphlets, and is free. Leaflets are largely distributed at meetings. Though the Branch has not greatly grown, evidence of its success in spreading Theosophy is evident in the attendance of strangers, their questions, and the increased use of the Library.

"H. P. B." T. S., New York City, is less than a year old. Without any summer intermission, it has held a meeting every Friday evening

with an average attendance of about 20, and since October an informal gathering for Theosophical conversation, with occasionally a lecture, has had place each Sunday evening. Literature is kept on hand for sale, thus supplying without delay those interested in the discussions. A Library has been begun, and a Visitors' Register gives facilities for sending out notices. The Branch started with 6 members, has added 10 and demitted 1; present number 15. Great assistance to it in funds and lectures has been given to it by the Aryan T. S.

LOS ANGELES T. S. has not largely grown, but has established a Sunday School for children and a Charitable League. It has also had the gratification of entertaining and hearing lectures from Dr. Keightley, Mr. Judge, Mr. Abbott Clark, Rev. W. E. Copeland, and Mr. Sidney Thomas. A great gain has been the settlement in Los Angeles of Miss Marie A. Walsh, whose mission is to give Sunday lectures and to devise practical means to reach the reading and thinking public. The Library contains about 100 books, all in constant circulation.

DHYANA LODGE T. S., Los Angeles, a consolidation of 3 Branches, numbered originally 24, but changes and death have reduced it to 21. It keeps up weekly lectures for the public and weekly meetings for study, all interested being welcome. No Library has yet been formed, though the nucleus of a fund exists. Public meetings are usually well attended, and the discussions show interest.

BLAVATSKY T. S., Washington, D. C., has 25 members. Fifteen joined during the year, but several others resigned. Weekly open meetings have been well attended, and some excellent original papers have been prepared. Miss Hillard's 3 lectures were highly appreciated, there being a demand in Washington for just such effective workers. The Branch has distributed about 2000 tracts, and growing interest is shown in the Headquarters, 1006 F st., where is the Library of about 80 books. The room is open to visitors daily (except Sundays) from 10 to 5.

BROOKLYN T. S. has held during the year 47 regular meetings and 5 for business, 52 in all, the average attendance being 18 at the former and 15 at the latter. Seven members have been admitted and one demitted; present number 34. There are about 200 books in the Library. In May the Branch will occupy its new rooms, which will be open every evening to inquirers.

APPENDIX.

FOREIGN LETTERS.

FROM THE EUROPEAN SECTION T. S. TO THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.—MOST HEARTY AND FRATERNAL GREETINGS:

Fellow Theosophists :

Twelve months ago, H. P. B. sent you her last letter of greeting and admonition borne by the hand and spoken by the mouth of her friend and messenger Annie Besant.

This time last year we were strong in the living championship of one whom no other can ever replace : to-day we are also strong because of a completed example of devotion and self-sacrifice that can never fade from our memories.

Within the past twelve months many changes have taken place. The Theosophical Society has passed triumphantly through the greatest test that could be applied to it, and has proved that the lesson of self-reliance which it was H. P. B's mission to teach has not been ill-learned.

Words are poor things to express real feelings ; but it is hardly too much to say that the work that H. P. B. has accomplished is almost unparalleled in the history of womanhood. For this our gratitude and admiration can never be sufficiently expressed, much less can they stand under the accusation of exaggeration at any rate by one who has in any way caught sight of the vista which has been opened up by H. P. B's single-handed pioneer work.

In Europe our movement to-day is stronger than it has ever been, and our work is marked by a steady devotion and a determined demeanor that argues well for its future success.

This time last year comparatively few in Europe had heard of Theosophy ; to-day in the British Islands it is a name known to even the children in the streets, and in the countries of the continent it has become familiarized to all the intelligent classes.

This result has been brought about by the extreme publicity into which the movement has been forced owing to the interest aroused by the public papers.

In the first place, the departure of H. P. B. was chronicled and commented upon by the entire European press, and the interest thus created has never been permitted to flag. Numerous lectures in the

largest public halls of our cities, especially the lectures of Annie Besant, are reported in the press, and editorials are continually appearing on Theosophy. At one time for upwards of a month the most enterprising of the great London dailies opened its pages to a controversy on Theosophy, which occupied from two to six columns daily. This correspondence was largely copied into the continental and colonial press, and the circulation of the paper increased enormously, thus showing the popular interest in the subject. The Theosophical movement is now a publicly recognized institution and a factor which no man with any knowledge of the times can afford to neglect.

Another phase of the popular development of the movement is the large number of cheap pamphlets which have been added to our literature during the past twelve months. There are dozens of such pamphlets in various languages, and everybody can now obtain a general knowledge of our leading Theosophical conceptions for the expenditure of a few pence.

The amalgamation of the British and European Sections into one Section at the first general Convention of the T. S. in Europe, in last July, has enabled us to put forth far more concentrated effort than was previously possible. The sectional magazine, the *Vâhan*, has been greatly enlarged and proves its utility as a medium of communication between Members and Headquarters in many ways. We have also followed your own initiative in the establishment of an Oriental Department, a Department of Branch Papers and Branch Work, and a League of Theosophical Workers, which latter has led to some excellent results of a philanthropic nature.

Most of our Branches have their own libraries and issue printed syllabuses of lectures ; two or three print their own transactions, and on the Continent several have their own magazines. Several also have established or are about to establish residential Headquarters.

The number of Centres in Europe is considerable, and many of these are stronger and more active than some of our chartered Branches.

Another feature of activity is the founding of a large number of Lending Libraries, and the supplying of the Free Libraries and Reading Rooms of our cities and towns with copies of Theosophical works and magazines.

It should be remembered that the task before the Theosophists of Europe is different to and more difficult than the work to be done among yourselves. Europe is an old country with strong conservative tendencies, and its nations speak different languages. Consequently an important branch of our activity is that of translation, and a quite

surprising amount of work has been done in this direction, especially in Sweden, Spain, France, and Holland and Belgium.

In France, owing to the most generous gift of a Theosophist who modestly desires to remain anonymous, we have been enabled to establish a most successful centre in Paris, which has already given abundant proof of determination and vitality. Our French journal, *Le Lotus Bleu*, has obtained the distinguished collaboration of the veteran Orientalist Émile Burnouf.

In addition to our Swedish, French, and Spanish magazines, journals in Dutch and German are shortly to appear.

In Spain the Society has a printing press of its own, and another is shortly to be established in Holland.

In London we have the largest printing press of the Society—in fact quite a considerable establishment giving constant employment to a dozen hands, and all our printing work is now done by ourselves. This office is run by an American, the fonts of type are American, and the press itself is one of the best machines of the United States.

The literary activity of the Society is far from being on the decrease; and H. P. B. is still our most important contributor, the most important publication of the year being her indispensable *Theosophical Glossary*.

The evil forebodings of our critics and opponents continually fail to be verified. Immediately on H. P. B.'s departure the newspapers began to prophesy the total collapse of the Society, a collapse which was to be accompanied by an undignified contention for her empty chair. You know, however, by this time how to estimate such false forecasts, and how every Theosophist worthy of the name, with silent determination, rallied round the officers of the T. S. for the time being, and all recognized, without a word being spoken, that no one could fill the place which had been left empty. This steadiness and decision have succeeded in changing the public tone in a marked degree; laughter is giving away to enquiry, and serious consideration is being shown in many quarters, in others even an ill-advised timidity.

As examples of this timidity, the leading magazine of the Order of Jesus, the most learned of the Roman Catholic body in Great Britain, in a series of articles on Theosophy, admits the genuineness of occult phenomena and the intellectual soundness of our philosophy, but attributes both to the traditional enemy of God. The Bishop of London also has forbidden the use of the school rooms of his diocese to Theosophical lecturers. Both these incidents, however, have only strengthened our position, for on the one hand they cut the throat of lay sceptics, who think the matter all hallucination or what not, and on

the other they make people eager to enquire, for the masses, as a whole, have ceased to seriously entertain the Satanic hypothesis. Indeed, our public lectures are crammed to overflowing, and the questions addressed to our free platform show a real interest and a growing desire to give Theosophy a fair hearing.

On the other hand, we are continually the object of most bitter invective and attack from certain quarters—attacks quite out of proportion to any insignificant movement, as some of our opponents would try to make people believe the Theosophical reformation to be.

To the philosophical observer, however, even these invectives are a healthy sign and show the tremendous seriousness of the work on which we are engaged, and also the nature of the contest that will range round us when the public as a body ceases to amuse itself with the untrue and absurd gossip which irresponsible contributors send to the press as legitimate Theosophical copy. Already the better informed papers are treating the matter with much gravity, and one or two writers of great reputation and experience are beginning to look the problem squarely in the face; they feel that the Theosophical movement of to-day is, so to speak, the re-incarnation of other past movements that have left an indelible impression on the pages of history.

Fellow Theosophists, it is the task of each one of us, therefore, to see that this incarnation of Theosophy is not a failure!

In conclusion there is one other matter of importance that must be referred to, namely the retirement of our old friend and fellow worker Colonel H. S. Olcott from the Presidency. The Society has long been prepared for this step, and no one can say the long wished-for rest has not been thoroughly merited and bravely won. But our President-Founder claims his freedom only for a new responsibility. Leisure is required to pen those records of the Society and its history that no other hand can trace, and Colonel Olcott will thus be enabled to serve the cause even better than when his whole time was occupied with the perfunctory duties of the Presidency. We retain the advantage of the President-Founder's counsel and experience, and we individually gain, moreover, the benefit of his recorded recollections.

Fellow Theosophists, whoever our new President may be, believe that the European Section will not be second to any in loyalty to the official symbol of our common Brotherhood.

For the Executive Committee of the European Section of the Theosophical Society,

Sincerely and fraternally,

G. R. S. MEAD,

General Secretary.

ADDRESS OF THE LONDON BLAVATSKY LODGE T. S. TO
THE AMERICAN SECTION IN CONVENTION AT CHI-
CAGO, APRIL, 1892.

The members of the London Blavatsky Lodge T. S. hereby convey their hearty and fraternal greetings to their brothers and sisters of the American Section, with the most cordial good wishes that the admirable Theosophical work which that Section has performed in the past may be but a preparation for increased activity in the future.

Last year when the Lodge had the pleasure of sending an address to your Convention we still had with us the bodily presence of our beloved teacher H. P. B. Nearly a year has now passed since she left us, a sufficient time for the prophecies of our opponents to have taken effect if those predictions of failure had been worth anything. It is, however, well known to you that never in the history of the T. S. has there been a year which has been marked by such activity and progress as the months which have gone by since May, 1891. Here in England our staff of speakers and workers has been quite inadequate to keep pace with the increased Theosophical propaganda which has opened out in every direction, and there seem to be no signs of a diminution of the interest which on all sides is shown in Theosophical philosophy, ethics, and general teaching.

The influence of all this upon our Lodge and its work has naturally been very marked. The number of members and associates has increased weekly at a rapid rate, and has now grown so large that the accommodation which the Hall at Headquarters affords is insufficient. In consequence of this, and of having continually to turn many visitors away, we have for some time past held two meetings each week, one being for more sustained and definite study, and we are now considering the advisability of either enlarging the hall or of taking an additional hall in another part of London.

Two other London Lodges have been formed during the year by members of the Blavatsky Lodge, and are flourishing, but although we have thereby lost to some extent some of our active workers, our own propaganda has not lessened but increased.

The Lodge has taken an active part in the organization of London lectures, its members providing always a staff of workers for the carrying out of the necessary business arrangements and for the sale of literature at these meetings. The monthly social gatherings have offered opportunities for drawing the members together, and for finding out the work of which each was capable, and there exists now a nucleus of devoted members always ready to help in any outside work which needs their assistance.

At your last Convention you had the advantage of the presence of our President, Annie Besant, as special messenger from H. P. B., and we rejoice to know that her visit to you did very much to strengthen the bonds of brotherhood which already existed between American and English Theosophists. This is the first of your gatherings which has been held without those wise and fraternal words of greeting from H. P. B., words which you so eagerly looked for and welcomed. No one can supply her place in this or in other respects. All that we can do is to assure you of our heartiest good wishes, not simply for the success of your Convention but of your future work and propaganda. Although now divided by material things, you and we are one in spirit, and in eager desire to strive to the utmost for the realization of that coming day when the whole race shall see and know that in spiritual unity alone lies the real basis of that universal brotherhood which it was H. P. B.'s great mission to teach.

ANNIE BESANT,

President B. L.

HERBERT BURROWS,

Vice-President B. L.

LAURA M. COOPER,

Hon. Sec. B. L.

COL. OLCOTT'S LETTER.

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

Recording Sec'y and Asst. Treasurer's Office.

ADYAR, MADRAS, 16th March, 1892.

W. Q. JUDGE, ESQUIRE,

General Secretary American Section T. S., New York, U. S. A.

Dear Sir and Brother :

I am instructed by the President Founder to convey to you the congratulations of the Society upon the useful and important work which you have done for Theosophy, not only in your public but in your private capacity. He also directs me to request you to lay before the approaching Convention of the American Section his warmest fraternal greetings, and his congratulations as regards the present aspect of the Theosophical movement in his always dear and native country. He feels that the men and women in America are animated by so ardent an altruistic spirit, and on the whole so unselfish a motive, that the future is brighter than his greatest expectations have hitherto warranted.

The President Founder requests you to enter the text of his resig-

nation and explanatory letter in the Official Report of your Convention, and to kindly say to his American brothers that the withdrawal from office is merely the relinquishment of an official position which, for reasons public and private, he felt he had no longer the moral right to retain. His love of the Society is so profound as to have taken possession of his whole being, and nothing but the sense of paramount loyalty to its highest interest would have impelled him to retire.

The President Founder's naturally vigorous constitution, unimpaired by intemperate living, will, he hopes, recover itself under the peaceful and healthy conditions of his new environment in the Neilgherry Hills, and enable him to resume active work in some department of our collective movement.

He retains his membership in the Society, and for the present his editorship of the *Theosophist*, and will be ever ready to promote by voice and pen the work of the elevation of Humanity in which our Masters have afforded us the opportunity to share, and finally, and above all, he shall hold himself ready to obey their orders as he and his ever-to-be-lamented and ever dear Co-Founder, Colleague, and Sister, H. P. Blavatsky, have during the past seventeen years.

Yours very truly and fraternally,

S. E. GOPALACHARLU,

Rec. Secretary, T. S.

FROM INDIAN SECTION.

TO THE SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE
THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

Brother Theosophists :

The members of the Indian Section of the Society desire me to transmit to you the expression of their good will and fraternal feeling, together with the hope that your present convention will be in every way a success.

The retirement of our loved President Founder, with which event our thoughts are now much occupied, will, of course, be felt in India more than elsewhere, and our hope is that when his unifying presence is withdrawn the three existing Sections of our Society will endeavor to preserve those bonds of union which are so essential to the well-being of our cause.

Our Section has recently put before the public some account of the work of the past year, and it is not therefore necessary to repeat these details.

On behalf of the Indian Section I congratulate America on the

work of the past year, on the successful result of the General Secretary's tour, on the number of new Branches founded, and on the newly organized work of the Oriental Department.

The last-named branch of work is especially of interest to us, as the interchange of ideas between the East and West will do so much to promote the first great object of the Society. Therefore we feel confident that the small beginning that has been made will grow and some day produce great results.

That your deliberations may tend to the lasting good of the whole Society is the earnest wish of every member of the Indian Section, on whose behalf I have the honor to sign myself,

BERTRAM KEIGHTLEY,
General Secretary.

REPORT OF W. I. SUB-SECTION.

Office of Asst. Gen. Secy. W. I. Am. Sec. T. S.
Care of J. Russell-Murray & Co.,
PORT OF SPAIN, TRINIDAD, B. W. I.,
March 19, 1892.

To W. Q. JUDGE, Esq.,

Gen. Sec. Am. Sect. T. S.

Dear Sir and Bro. :

I have to report that there are no active branches in the West Indies. The two Registered Branches of *St. Thomas and Haiti* are quite dormant, so much so that neither has replied to the queries of the Asst. Gen. Sec. as to Particulars, Registration of Members, etc.

There is a branch in process of formation in Grenada, B. W. I., where they have the necessary complement of members. In Trinidad arrangements to form a branch are being made, but owing to the strongly opposing conditions of the local society progress is very slow.

Fraternally yours,

E. D. EWEN,
Asst. Gen. Secy. W. I.

PRESIDENT'S CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE FELLOWS OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

President's Office, ADYAR, 27 January, 1892.

My Dear Colleagues :

In presenting you with the text of the subjoined official document, I bespeak your attention to the following remarks, which are intended to remove from your minds all misconceptions as to its cause.

Those of you who were present at our last December Convention will have noticed how lame I was and how much of my time I was forced to spend in my own room. I then hoped that this was merely a slight rheumatic attack due to a chill, but since we parted my health has not really improved and my constitution seems to have been more undermined than I thought by my long years of work in the Tropics.

The past year—which I intended to have been a complete holiday and rest—has been one of even greater labour than usual, and it has become clear to me that, so long as I remain President of the Theosophical Society even in name, no real rest or retirement is possible or attainable.

Hence it comes that reviewing the whole situation of the Society in relation to the duty I have still to perform and to my own state of health, from the quiet of the sick-room, it has forced itself upon me that I must carry out the intention repeatedly expressed and retire formally from office.

It may seem strange that I should announce this decision so soon after the Convention ; but I feel that this is the most suitable time, as the Conventions of the American and European Sections will be held in three or four months' time, so that any measures which my retirement renders necessary may be fully discussed at their Sessions.

Taking a survey of the position of the Society, my visits to Europe and America have proved to me, as stated in my Annual Address, that the work of the movement in both continents is in a highly satisfactory condition. My observations also on my return to India have satisfied me that the newly-formed Indian Section is in safe hands and on a sound basis. In Europe, Mrs. Annie Besant has, almost at a single rush, come to the forefront of our movement. By her known integrity of character, her blameless life, her unselfish enthusiasm, and her exceptional abilities, she has outstripped all her colleagues and stirred the minds of English-speaking peoples to their depths. I know her personally, and know that in India she will be as kind, as sisterly towards the Asiatics as even H. P. B. or I have been, and will be loved and trusted equally well when they have had time to know and appreciate her. In America, under Mr. Judge's firm and able management, the Society has spread over the length and breadth of the land, and the organization there is growing more powerful and stable every day.

Thus the three Sections of the Society are in thoroughly good hands, and my personal direction is no longer indispensable.

If the status of the Society had not radically altered for the better, if it did not stand like a castle on a cliff against which waves beat

themselves vainly into foam, it might be demanded that I should remain ; now, I feel I have a full right to my freedom, and I take it.

The subjoined letter of resignation is already on its way to the Vice-President as provided in Article IV. of the Constitution of 1890. To facilitate the necessary arrangements, the transfer of property, etc., I shall hold office until May 1st next, when I shall leave Headquarters and take up my residence in my little cottage at Ootacamund. There I intend to complete the unfinished but very necessary portion of my work, namely, the compiling of the Society's history and the writing of certain books on religious, occult, and the psychological sciences.

I have no intention of leaving India nor any desire to live elsewhere. This is my home, and I wish to die among my own heart-brothers, the Asiatics. I shall always be ready to give all needed help to my successor, and to place at the disposal of his Staff my best counsel, based upon an experience of some forty years of public life and seventeen years as President-Founder of our Society.

Need I say more, have I not fully earned rest from active work in the field, and a time of quiet in which to carry out the unfinished work above alluded to?

In bidding you an official farewell, I have but to express my gratitude for a thousand evidences of your loving trust, and to pray you to judge compassionately of my shortcomings.

I am yours fraternally,

H. S. OLCOTT.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Should sufficient funds be subscribed to cover expense of printing in a separate pamphlet the papers read at Convention, as also the General Secretary's address on "Cyclic Impression and our Evolution", the pamphlet will be printed and notice thereof given in the "Theosophical Forum" and otherwise.